U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CENTER AND FORT GORDON

ATZH-IS

INSTALLATION SAFETY OFFICE

25 April 2007

AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS, WHO ARE THEY? Are YOU one??

Here's what we know of them, so far:

• These high risk drivers climb into the anonymity of an automobile and take out their frustrations on anybody at any time.
• For them, frustration levels are high, and level of concern for fellow motorists is low.
• They run stop signs and red lights, speed, tailgate, weave in and out of traffic, pass on the right, make improper and unsafe lane changes, make hand and facial gestures, scream, honk, and flash their lights.
• They drive at speeds far in excess of the norm which causes them to: follow too closely, change lanes frequently and abruptly without notice (signals), pass on the shoulder or unpaved portions of the roadway, and leer at and/or threaten - verbally or through gestures - motorists who are thoughtless enough to be in front of them.

WHEN CONFRONTED BY AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS:
• First and foremost make every attempt to *safely get out of their way*.
• *Put your pride in the back seat*. Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold-your-own in your travel lane.
• *Wear your seat belt*. It will it hold you in your seat and behind the wheel in case you need to make an abrupt driving maneuver and it will protect you in a crash.
• *Avoid eye contact*. Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
• *Report* aggressive drivers to the appropriate authorities by providing a vehicle description, license number, location, and if possible, direction of travel. If you have a cellular phone, and can do it safely, call the police -- many have special numbers (e.g. 9-1-1 or #77).
• If an aggressive driver is involved in a crash farther down the road, stop a safe distance from the crash scene, wait for the police to arrive and report the driving behavior that you witnessed.
• Remember how to deal with aggressive drivers.
• Avoid the challenges or confrontations of an aggressive driver

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In today's environment aggressive drivers are a force to be dealt with when driving our highways. What can *YOU* do to minimize the effects of these thoughtless aggressive drivers?

YOU **need to obey all the traffic laws. Below are recommendations to avoid accidents.**

Use *YOUR* signals for all changes of direction to include lane changes.

If you are not driving in and around your local commuting area, be aware of the "driving norm in that area" it may be different than what your "accepted norm" is.

YOU **need to adjust your driving patterns to the existing norm in order to minimize your risk. This is risk management in the everyday environment.**

Aggressive drivers tend to exceed the speed limit - leave the far left lane for the speed freaks, drive in right lanes commensurate with your comfort level & the smooth flow of traffic. *DO NOT DRIVE IN THE FARTHEST LEFT LANE AT THE SPEED LIMIT & THINK YOU ARE FINE.* Aggressive drivers will run you over or cause an accident that involving you when they try to swerve around you.

Whatever lane you are in no matter the highway (two lane, four lane, divided, etc.), if you find a long line of traffic behind you (you are the toad in the road) and a long stretch of open road in front of you, suggest you take an alternate route, pull over and let traffic pass, take a break, etc. Backing up long lines of traffic is an accident waiting to happen.

Solid lines on the road (white, yellow or other) mean you as the driver should *not* cross. Where this hazard is most frequently encountered is access ramps to multilane divided highways. Someone usually is in a hurry and jumps the queue blasting across two sold lines; this prevents everyone else from smoothly merging with the flow of traffic. Be aware of these inconsiderate careless drivers and anticipate this situation.

The rule in most states (Georgia and South Carolina) is *right turn on red after stopping if the intersection is clear.* This is true for a conventional traffic light unless posted otherwise. Right turn on a red arrow pointing right is a violation of the law and you will be ticketed for